

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,989

Examiner

Thanh Y. Tran

Applicant(s)

GUSTINE ET AL.

Art Unit

2822

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/01/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12 and 136-140.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/01/04 & 7/06/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


AMIR ZARABIAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 136-140 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claim 1, the patentability, at least in part, is a combination of: *"a case for confining a first circuit card to a particular location within a housing, the case comprising: a pair of end walls and side walls form a slot; an actuator disposed within the slot, the actuator is engageable with the first circuit card for clamping the first circuit card between the actuator and one of the pair of opposing end walls of the case; a second circuit card; and a partition sandwiched between the first and second circuit cards"*.

In claim 7, the patentability, at least in part, is a combination of: *"a case for confining a pair of circuit cards to different locations within a housing, comprising: a partition disposed between the first and second end walls that divides the case into a first slot bounded by a portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the first end wall and a second slot bounded by another portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the second end wall, the first and second slots each containing one of the circuit cards; and an actuator is engageable with the circuit card in the first slot for clamping the circuit card in the first slot, the partition, and the circuit card in the second slot between the actuator and the second end wall"*.

Applicant has properly incorporated allowable subject matter as noted in the previous Office Action. Cantrell (U.S. 5,642,264), Hutchison et al (U.S. 6,404,637), and Holt (U.S. 5,914,854) do not teach the above mentioned limitations in paragraph 2.

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Hutchison et al (U.S. 6,430,044) discloses in figure 6 an enclosure comprising a pair of end walls and side walls form a slot; a partition sandwiched between the first and second circuit cards. However, Hutchison does not disclose the enclosure (100) having an actuator disposed within the slot, the actuator is engageable with the first circuit card for clamping the first circuit card between the actuator and one of the pair of opposing end walls of the case (enclosure).

3. There is no reason to combine Hutchison's reference with another reference to include the above mentioned-limitations in paragraph 2, neither it would be obvious to modify the art of record so as to include the above mentioned-limitations in paragraph 2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh Y. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2110. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9-6:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amir Zarabian can be reached on (571) 272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TYT


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ASSISTANT PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800